

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EUR/CE:LHEICHLER:BJR

APPROVED BY EUR:ARTHUR A. HARTMAN

C - MR. DOBBINS

S/S - MR. MOFFAT

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TO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 299354

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, WB, GW, US, UK, FR

SUBJECT:QUADRIpartite MINISTERS MEETING ON BERLIN AND GERMAN

REF: SECTO 24035

1. THE SEMI-ANNUAL QUADRIpartite MINISTERS MEETING, CHAIRED BY SECRETARY KISSINGER, WAS HELD AT AMBASSADOR FIRESTONE'S RESIDENCE IN BRUSSELS AT 3:00 PM. DEC.12,1975.

2. ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN PRESENTED TO THE MINISTERS A REPORT SUMMARIZING THE RESULTS OF THE PREVIOUS DAY'S SENIOR LEVEL MEETING (REFTEL). HIS REPORT HIGHLIGHTED DISCUSSIONS OF THE NATO COMMUNIQUE, THE SCOPE OF THE BONN
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GROUP, SOVIET/GDR POLICY ON BERLIN, AND THE IMPORTANCE OF

CLOSE CONSULTATIONS ON INNER-GERMAN NEGOTIATIONS. IN REPORTING DISCUSSIONS OF BERLIN AND THE EC, HARTMAN NOTED THAT, SUBJECT TO AGREEMENT BY FOREIGN MINISTERS, THE FRG PRESS SPOKESMAN WOULD ANNOUNCE THE DECISION REPORTED IN REFTEL ON DIRECT ELECTIONS TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT.

3. SAUVAGNARGUES EXPRESSED HIS APPROVAL OF HARTMAN'S REPORT, ADDING THAT HE THOUGHT THE DECISION ON DIRECT ELECTIONS REPRESENTED THE BEST WAY OF HANDLING THAT VERY DELICATE MATTER. SAUVAGNARGUES ALSO EXPRESSED AGREEMENT WITH THE US VIEW ON THE DESIRABILITY OF LOOKING AT THE BERLIN SITUATION AS A WHOLE, INCLUDING ITS POSITIVE ASPECTS.

4. NOTING THAT THE ALLIES SHOULD SUPPORT THE FRG IN THE FACE OF SOVIET EFFORTS TO REDUCE FRG REPRESENTATION OF BERLIN'S INTERESTS ABROAD, SAUVAGNARGUES SAID THIS WOULD BE EASIER IF WE TOOK A CLEAR POSITION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE IN MATTERS AFFECTING STATUS AND SECURITY. HE SAID IT WOULD BE "NONSENSE" TO EXTEND THE BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION TO BERLIN. THIS WOULD CLEARLY VIOLATE THE RESERVATION ON STATUS AND SECURITY AND HENCE LEAVE US ON WEAKER GROUND IN OTHER AREAS.

5. REFERRING TO "GRAY AREAS" IN THE QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT, SAUVAGNARGUES SAID THE WEST SHOULD NOT PUSH TOO HARD IN ONE DIRECTION, LEST THE SOVIETS PUSH BACK IN SUCH WAYS AS HARASSMENT IN BERLIN ACCESS.

6. GENSCHER SAID HE WAS SATISFIED WITH THE REPORT PRESENTED BY HARTMAN AND HAD NO COMMENTS ON IT. (COMMENT: ACCORDING TO AN FRG OFFICIAL, WHEN GENSCHER WAS BRIEFED ON THE FORMULATION ON ELECTION OF BERLINERS TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AS WORKED OUT IN THE SENIOR LEVEL MEETING, HE DESCRIBED IT AS "MASTERFUL.")

7. AT GENSCHER'S REQUEST, VAN WELL GAVE A RATHER DETAILED REPORT ON THE STATUS OF INNER-GERMAN NEGOTIATIONS. HE SAID THAT AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED WITH THE GDR ON THE FOLLOWING:
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(A) THE ANNUAL FRG LUMP-SUM PAYMENT TO THE GDR WILL BE DM 400 MILLION.

(B) THE FRG WILL PAY 65 PER CENT OF THE COST OF RECONSTRUCTION OF THE HELMSTEDT-BERLIN AUTOBAHN AND 60 PER CENT FOR WIDENING THE BERLIN RING. TOTAL COST WAS AGREED AT DM 405 MILLION, OF WHICH THE FRG WILL

PAY DM 260 MILLION IN FOUR INSTALLMENTS BETWEEN 1976 AND PROJECTED COMPLETION IN 1979.

(C) THE STAAKEN RAIL CROSSING POINT WILL BE OPENED FOR PASSENGER TRAFFIC AND THREE NEW RAIL STOPS WILL BE INSTITUTED IN WEST BERLIN. THE FRG WILL PAY THE FULL COST OF DM 51 MILLION .

(D) THE GDR HAS EXPRESSED READINESS TO EXCHANGE LETTERS ON THE POSSIBILITY OF OPENING A NEW CROSSING POINT IN THE NORTHWEST PART OF WEST BERLIN.

(E) NEGOTIATIONS ON BUILDING A BERLIN-HAMBURG AUTOBAHN WILL START IN 1978. THE FRG WILL HOPE TO HAVE CONSTRUCTION BEGIN IN 1980.

(F) ON TELTOW CANAL, AGREEMENT IS IN SIGHT ON THE NEGOTIATING MANDATE.

8. MINISTERS HEARD VAN WELL'S REPORT WITHOUT FURTHER COMMENTS. KISSINGER

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